

STUCKEY PRESENTS ENDOWMENT GIFT
TO
OSU STONE LABORATORY

Ronald L. Stuckey, Professor Emeritus of Botany at The Ohio State University, announced his donation of a \$15,000 contribution to the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, on the occasion of the Laboratory's 100th Anniversary Celebration on Gibraltar Island, Put-in-Bay, Ohio, 24 August 1996.

Dr. Stuckey's contribution was made in November 1995 and approved by the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University, 2 February 1996. The donation establishes an endowment whose income will provide annual financial support to employ a faculty-level individual to teach a course in vascular aquatic plants. The aquatic plants course was Professor Stuckey's chief instructional responsibility at the Laboratory when he taught there from 1966 to 1991. He offered the course 18 of the 25 summers he worked at the Laboratory. Stuckey chose to announce the gift in the form of a poem he wrote, titled, "Of Life, Friends, Death, and Giving."

To show their appreciation for the gift, officials presented Professor Stuckey with two awards. The Director of the Laboratory, Jeffrey M. Reutter, honored Stuckey with a Partnership Award, a plaque with the inscription, "*In Recognition of Your Numerous Contributions to Stone Laboratory and Your Efforts to Permanently Endow a Faculty Position For Your Course—Higher Aquatic Plants, 24 August 1996.*" The second award was given by Michael Ahern, 1995–1996, President of the Friends organization. This group, who simultaneously were holding their annual meeting, consists of former students, faculty, staff, and others who volunteer their time, make financial gifts, or offer other kinds of donations to the Laboratory. Dr. Stuckey's second plaque was inscribed, "*For your outstanding support and dedication to Stone Laboratory.*" The award also carried the title "*Centennial, 1896–1996, 100 Years of Education and Research at Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory.*" Stuckey's endowment, the eighth one established by the Friends organization for the Laboratory, is the first one for a specific course of instruction, and is believed to be the first of its kind in the country for a course in aquatic plants.

Dr. Stuckey's major research at the Laboratory focuses on the changes in abundance and distribution of aquatic and wetland plants in western Lake Erie. In 1971, Stuckey published a paper

in the *Ohio Journal of Science* documenting that 50% of the aquatic plant species in Put-in-Bay Harbor had disappeared since 1900. With the invasion of the zebra mussels, the water is much clearer and cleaner now, and several of the species have returned following this environmental change. This recent study, published in the same journal (1995) is co-authored by Stuckey and his former student, David L. Moore, who now teaches the aquatic plants course at the Laboratory. Their paper represents the first known study of its kind documenting the return of aquatic plants to a site where they once had disappeared. Their work has been reported recently in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit News*, and in the magazines *Business Week* and *Discover*.

Stuckey has participated in the Laboratory during five decades, first as a student while he attended Heidelberg College (1959), as a faculty member (1966–1991), and as the Associate Director for the Educational Program (1977–1985). He is currently writing the 100-year history of the Laboratory.